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Fall River, Mass.- 1st. Congregational
Church - The Confession of Faith
and Covenant - 1838

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Fall River. — First Cong. Church

THE
CONFESSION OF FAITH

AND
COVENANT

OF THE
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,

FALL RIVER,

WITH BRIEF PROOF TEXTS.

For with the HEART man believeth unto righteousness, and with the mouth
confession is made unto salvation.—*Rom. x. 10.*

Thy vows are upon me, O God.—*Ps. lvi. 12.*

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BRIEF HISTORY
OF THE
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, FALL RIVER.

The First Congregational Church in Fall River was organized by an Ecclesiastical Council regularly convened for the purpose, January 9th, 1816; and adopted a confession of faith and form of Covenant, embracing the leading doctrines of grace, and the rules of christian fellowship taught by the Apostles, and adhered to by the Reformers of the 16th century and by the Fathers of New-England. This church at the time of its organization was composed of FIVE members—three males and two females: three of whom still survive.

The Rev. Augustus B. Read (now of Ware) the first Bishop and Pastor of this Church, was ordained and installed July 2d, 1823; and the pastoral relation was dissolved August 3d, 1825.

The Rev. Thomas M. Smith, (now of Catskill, N. Y.) the second Bishop and Pastor, was installed November 1st, 1826; and the pastoral relation was dissolved April 27th, 1831.

The Rev. Orin Fowler, the present Bishop and Pastor, was installed July 7th, 1831.

Sylvester C. Allen was chosen the first Deacon October 17th, 1821; and resigned, on account of his removal from the town, March 16th, 1835.

Richard Durfee was chosen Deacon Dec. 1st, 1823.

Matthew C. Durfee was chosen Deacon August 19th, 1833; and resigned Sept. 19th, 1836, on account of his removal from town.

Benjamin S. Bourne was chosen Deacon Dec'r. 16th, 1833 ; and resigned May 19th, 1834, on account of his removal from town.

David Anthony was chosen Deacon Oct. 20th, 1834.

Samuel L. Whipple and Leander P. Lovell were chosen Deacons August 15th, 1836.

Philip R. Bennett was chosen Deacon Nov. 14th, 1836; and resigned Sept. 18th, 1837.

Deacons Matthew C. Durfee and Benjamin Bourne were publicly and solemnly ordained and inducted into office, by prayer and the laying on of hands, according to primitive example (Acts vi. 6.) Jan'y 1st, 1834. In this service, the Pastor was assisted by Rev. Messrs. King of Tiverton, and Starkweather of Bristol.

Deacons D. Anthony, S. L. Whipple, L. P. Lovell and P. R. Bennett were in like manner ordained and inducted into office Dec'r 29th, 1836. In this service the Pastor was assisted by the Rev. T. Shepard of Bristol.

Since its organization this Church has been favored with the dews of divine grace during a large portion of its existence ; and with four seasons of special revival, to wit :

In the winter of 1826-7 when about 60 were added to the church.

In the winter of 1831-2 when about 50 were added to the church.

In 1834 when about 50 were added to the church ; — and in 1836, when more than 100 were added to the church. These displays of the mercy and love of a faithful covenant-keeping God, the Church would record with admiring gratitude and humble praise.

FORM OF ADMISSION.

ADDRESS.

Beloved in the Lord : — You now appear in the presence of Almighty God and of his people and of this Congregation to make a solemn profession of your religious faith ; to enter into Covenant with this Church ; and publicly to avouch the Lord Jehovah as your God and Savior. It is the most solemn transaction in which mortals ever engage on earth. We trust you have pondered this transaction with deep meditation and fervent prayer ; and that you are prepared by divine grace to consecrate yourselves to the Lord a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God through Jesus Christ, which is but your reasonable service. By partaking of the memorials of Christ's body and blood, you obey his covenant, and acknowledge and commemorate his death on the cross, as your only ground of pardon, sanctification, and eternal life.

You will now profess your faith before these witnesses.

CONFESSION OF FAITH.

(With Scripture Proofs.)

I. You (and each of you) believe in the existence of one God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost ; the

Creator of all things, and the sovereign disposer of all events.

The existence and unity of God.—Deut. vi. 4. Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord. Isa. xlv. 5. I am the Lord, and there is none else; there is no God beside me. Mark xii. 32. There is one God. 1 Cor. viii. 4. There is none other God but one.

The Trinity.—Mat. xxviii. 19. Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. 2 Cor. xiii. 14. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. 1 Pet. i. 2. Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ. 1 John v. 7. There are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost, and these three are one.

God the Creator of all things and the disposer of all events—Gen. i. 1. In the beginning God *created* the heavens and the earth. Neh. ix. 6. Thou, even thou, art Lord alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all. Mat. x. 29, 30. Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? And one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.—Eph. i. 11. Who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will. See also Ps. ciii. 19. Job xi. 7—9. Rev. xix. 6. 1 Tim. i. 17. Mal. iii. 6. Ps. cii. 25, 27, Ps. cxxxix. Jer. xxiii. 23, 24. Ps. xc. 2. Eph. iv. 6.

II. You believe that this God, existing in three persons, is a spirit, holy, unchangeable, and perfect in all the attributes of his character.

God is a spirit.—John iv. 24. God is a spirit; and they that worship him, must worship him in spirit and truth. Numb. xxiv. 2. And the spirit of God came upon him.

God is holy.—Isa. vi. 3. Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts, and the whole earth is full of his glory. Exo. xv. 11. Who is like unto thee, O Lord, amongst the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders? Rev. iv. 8. Holy, holy, holy. Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

God is unchangeable.—Malachi iii. 6. For I am the Lord, I change not. James i. 17. Every good gift, and every perfect gift, is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

God perfect in all his attributes.—1 Tim. i. 17. Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory forever and ever, Amen. Exo. xxxiv. 6, 7. And the Lord passed by before him and proclaimed, the Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty. Job xi. 7—9. Canst thou by searching find out God? Canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection? It is as high as heaven; what canst thou do? deeper than hell; what canst thou know? The measure thereof, is longer than the earth, and broader than the sea. See also, Ps. xc. 2. Rev. xix. 6. Heb. i. 12. Ps. cii. 25, 27. Ps. cxxxix. 1, 12. Jer. xxiii. 23, 24.

III. You believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the word of God; — that they were given by inspiration of God, and are profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness.

2 Peter i. 21. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man; but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. 2 Tim. iii. 16. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. 2 Peter i. 19. We have a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed. John xvii. 17. Thy word is truth. Mat. xxii. 29. Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures. Gal. i. 11, 12. But I certify you, brethren, that the Gospel which was preached of me, is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ. See also, 1 Cor. ii. 13. Heb. i. 1. Ps. cxix. Ps. xix. 7, 8. John v. 39. Isa. viii. 20.

IV. You believe in the total corruption of human nature.

Rom. v. 12. Therefore as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned. Eph. ii. 3. And were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. Gen. vi. 5. And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. Job xv. 16. How much more abominable and filthy is man which drinketh iniquity like water. Ps. xiv. 2, 3. The Lord looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand and seek God. They are all gone aside, they are altogether become filthy, there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Rom. viii. 6, 7, 8. For to be carnally minded is death; because the carnal mind is enmity against God. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. Ps. lviii. 3. The wicked are estranged from the womb; they go astray, as soon as they are born, speaking lies. Ps. li. 5. Behold I was shapen in iniquity and in sin did my mother conceive me. See also, Gen. viii. 21. Job xxv. 4. Isa. xlvi. 8. Jer. xvii. 9. Mat. xii. 34. Rom. chapters 1, 2, 3. 2 Cor. v. 14. Eph. ii. 1, 3. Eccl. ix. 3.

V. You believe that no man can be saved by any merit or righteousness of his own; but only through the atonement of Christ.

Eph. i. 7. In whom [i. e. in Christ] we have redemption through his blood; the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace. Rom. iii. 24. Being justified freely by his grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. John iii. 16. God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life. Eph. ii. 8, 9. For by grace are ye saved, through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God; not of works, lest any man should boast. Heb. ix. 26—28. But now, once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many. Isa. liii. 5—12. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he

was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him, and with his stripes we are healed. And the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. For the transgression of my people was he stricken. When thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, &c. He shall see of the travail of his soul and be satisfied. And he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors, &c. See also, Acts xx. 28. Col. i. 14. 1 John i. 7. Rev. i. 5. 1 Pet. i. 18, 19. Jas. ii. 18.

VI. You believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the second person in the Trinity, is God over all, blessed forever.

1 John v. 20. This [Jesus Christ] is the true God, and eternal life. 1 Tim. iii. 16. And without controversy, great is the mystery of Godliness; God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up to glory. Mat. i. 23. Behold a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a Son (Christ) and they shall call his name Emmanuel; which, being interpreted, is, God with us. Rom. ix. 5. Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, God blessed forever, Amen. John x. 33. The Jews answered him (Christ) saying, for a good work we stone thee not, but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God. Col. ii. 9. For in him (Christ) dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. John i. 1. In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God. Heb. i. 8. But unto the Son he saith, thy throne, O God, is forever and ever.

The *Attributes*, *Works*, and *Worship* belonging only to the true God are ascribed to Jesus Christ, which prove that he is the true God. See the following, among many passages:—John viii. 58. Phil. iii. 21. Mat. xviii. 20. Phil. ii. 6. John i. 3. John v. 21 and 23. Acts vii. 59, 60. Mat. xxviii. 19. Col. i. 15—17. Heb. xii. 2.

VII. You believe that the Lord Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners; that he has made a full expiation for the sins of the whole world, and that God can now be just, while he is the justifier of him that believeth in Jesus.

1 Tim. i. 15. This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Luke xxiv. 46, 47. Thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead on the third day; and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations. Matt. xxvi. 28. For this is my blood of the New Testament which is shed for many for the remission of sins. Rom. v. 8 While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Gal. iii. 13. Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us; for it is written, cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree. 1 Pet. i. 18, 20. Ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold,—but with the precious blood of Christ. 1 John ii. 1, 2. And if any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: and he is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. John iii. 16. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. Heb. ii. 9. But we see

Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man,

See also, 1 Cor. xv. 3. Ti. ii. 14. Heb. ix. 12. John i. 29. 2 Pet. ii. 1. Eph. i. 7. Rom. iii. 26.

VIII. You believe that the Holy Ghost, the third person in the Trinity, is truly God, and that he sanctifies the heart of every one that is given to Christ.

The Holy Ghost the true God.—Acts v. 3. But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thy heart to lie to the Holy Ghost? Thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. 2 Tim. iii. 16. All scripture is given by inspiration of God: compared with 2 Pet. i. 21. Holy men spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. Matt. xxviii. 19. Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. 2 Cor. xiii. 14. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all.

The attributes, works and worship belonging to the true God are ascribed to the Holy Ghost. See 1 Cor. ii. 10, 11. Heb. ix. 14. Ps. cxxxix. 7. John vi. 63.

The Holy Ghost sanctifies the heart.—1 Cor. vi. 11. But ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God. Ti. iii. 15. Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost. See also, 1 Thes. i. 5, 6.

IX. You believe that by the continual operations of the Holy Ghost on the heart, every believer will persevere unto the end, and will finally attain salvation.

Ps. cxxv. 1, 2. They that trust in the Lord shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth forever. Job xvii 9. The righteous also shall hold on his way; and he that hath clean hands shall be stronger and stronger. Phil. i. 6. Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you, will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. John x. 27—29 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me; and I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. 1 Pet. i. 5. Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation. See also, John vi. 39. Rom. viii. 38, 39. Ps. xxxvii. 23, 24. John iv. 14.

X. You believe that there will be a general judgment at the end of the world, when the Lord Jesus will assem-

ble all intelligent beings before his tribunal, and render to every man according to his deeds, whether they be good, or whether they be evil.

Acts xvii. 31. Because he hath appointed a day in the which he will judge the world in righteousness, by that man whom he hath ordained. Rom. xiv. 14. We shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.—Rev. xx. 12. And I saw the dead, small and great stand before God. Eccl. xii. 14. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil. Rom. ii. 6. Who will render to every man according to his deeds. Rom. xiv. 12. So then every one of us shall give an account of himself to God. Heb. ix. 27. And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment. John v. 19. Marvel not at this; for the hour is coming in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice and shall come forth, they that have done good unto the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation. See also, Matt. xiii. 36. Rev. xx. 12.

XI. You believe that this decision will be final; and that the wicked will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into life eternal.

The wicked will suffer interminable punishment.—Matt. xxv. 41—46. Depart, ye cursed, into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment. 2 Thes. i. 9. Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his power. Rev. xxi. 1—8. The fearful, and the unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolators and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death. 2 Pet. ii. 4—9. For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness to be reserved unto judgment; the Lord knoweth how to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished.—Mark iii. 29. But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost, hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation. Matt. x. 28. Fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Luke xvi. 22—24. In hell he lifted up his eyes, being in torments—I am tormented in this flame. See also, Rev. xxi. 27.—xx. 15. Matt. xiii. 40—42. Mark ix. 47, 49. Luke iii. 17. Phil. iii. 18, 19. 2 Thes. ii. 11, 12. Heb. x. 30, 31. 2 Pet. iii. 7. Rev. xiv. 9—11.

The righteous shall be received into endless life and happiness.—Matt. xxv. 34—46. Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. And the righteous [shall go] into eternal life. 1 Cor. ii. 9. Eye hath not seen nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. Gal. vi. 8. He that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. Rev. ii. 10. Be

thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. Rom. ii. 6, 7. To them, who by patient continuance in well doing, seek for glory, honor and immortality : God will render eternal life. See also, Ezek. xviii. 9. John iv. 36. Rom. vi. 22, 23. 1 Thess. iv. 7. Rev. vii. 14—17.

XII. Firmly believing all the doctrines contained in the word of God, you hope it has pleased him who is rich in mercy, to give you a humble and penitent sense of your lost condition as a sinner in his sight ; and a willingness to receive the Lord Jesus Christ, as he is offered in the Gospel, as your Prophet, and Priest, and King. And you profess a true repentance for sin, and a cordial trust in Christ alone for salvation.

Acts xvi. 31. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house John iii. 36. He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life ; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life ; but the wrath of God abideth on him. Eph. ii. 8. For by grace are ye saved through faith ; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God. John iii. 16. God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. See also, Rom. iii. 26. Ja. ii. 18. Rom. iii. 26—30. Rom. iv. 5. Isa. xxviii. 16.

Thus you believe and profess.

[*Here Baptism is administered :*]

You will now enter into solemn covenant with God and with his Church.

THE COVENANT.

And now, in the presence of God, and our Lord Jesus Christ, and before angels and men, you do solemnly avouch the Lord Jehovah, to be your God ; the Lord Jesus Christ, to be your Saviour and Redeemer ; and the Holy Ghost, to be your Sanctifier and Comforter. And you do sincerely, deliberately, and forever enter into covenant with God, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, promising on your part to give up yourself and all that you possess, without any reserve, in faith, and love, and holy obedience to him.— You promise by the assistance of divine grace, that you

will come out of the world, and be separate from its pollutions and snares; receive in love the doctrines of the Gospel; and walk in all the statutes and ordinances of the Lord, blameless. You engage to train up all committed to you, in the nurture and admonition of the Lord: to keep holy the Lord's day;* to read with diligence and prayerfulness, his holy word; and to worship him with reverence, in the closet, and in the family, and in the congregation of his people.† You engage to submit to the

* *On the duty of keeping the Sabbath holy*; see Exo. xx. 8—11. Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God; in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy man servant, nor thy maid servant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it. See also, Exo. xvi. 23—30.—xxx. 13, 14. Lev. xxiii. 2.—xix. 3.—xxiii. 3.—Deut. v. 12—13. Isa. lvi. 4, 6.—lviii. 13.

† *On secret prayer*.—See the following: Matt. vi. 6. But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. See Luke vi. 12. Ps. lv. 17. Gen. ch. xxviii. and ch. xxxii. Dan. vi. 10. Acts x. 9.

On family prayer, see Josh. xxiv. 15. As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. Also, Gen. xviii. 19. 2 Sam. vi. 20. Prov. xxii. 6. Job i. 4, 5. Jer. x. 25. Acts x. 2. Eph. vi. 4.

On public prayer and public worship, see Matt. xviii. 20. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. Heb. x. 25. Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is. Also Luke iv. ch. Luke ix. 23, 29. Luke xi. 1. Acts i. 24. Acts ii. Acts iv. 24. Acts vi. 4, Rom. xv. 30. 1 Tim. ii. 8.

Believers and their children proper subjects of baptism.—Matt. xxviii. 19. Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Acts x. 47. Can any man forbid water that these should not be baptized? Eze. xxxvi. 25, 26. Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean. Matt. iii. 11. I indeed baptize you with water. 1 Cor. x. 1, 2. Moreover brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and were all [parents and children] baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea. Gen. xvii. 5—15. And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. Rom. iv. 11. And Abraham received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of faith which he had that he

discipline of this church: to walk with us in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel; to unite with us in maintaining the worship of God; to attend with diligence upon the seals of the Gospel covenant, Baptism and the Lord's Supper;† to watch over your brethren in the Lord: and to receive their corrections and reproofs in a spirit of love and meekness. All this you solemnly promise to do, with humble trust in the grace of God, to assist you, fleeing for refuge to the blood of the covenant; and with an affecting belief, that your vows are recorded on high, and will be reviewed in the day of judgment.

[*The Church now rise.*]

We then, the members of this church, do joyfully, receive you into our holy communion. We promise to treat you with affection; to watch over you with fidelity and tenderness: and to offer our prayers to the great Head of the Church, that you may be enabled to fulfil this solemn covenant. “The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord

might be the father of all them that believed. Gal. iii. 29. If ye be Christ's then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. iii. 14. That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ. Acts iii. 25—39. Ye are the children of the prophets and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, and in thy seed shall all the kindreds (families) of the earth be blessed. For the promise is unto you and your *children*. Gal. iii. 8, 9. So then they which be of faith, are blessed with faithful Abraham. Jeremiah foretels that in the Gospel days—xxx. 20. Their children shall be as aforetime. Acts xvi. 14, 15. And a certain woman named Lydia, *whose heart* the Lord opened, that *she* attended unto the things which were spoken by Paul. And when *she* was *baptized* and *her household*, she besought us saying, if ye have judged *me* to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and abide there. Acts xvi. 23. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes and was *baptized*; *he* and *all his*, *straightway*. 1 Cor. i. 16. And I *baptized* the household of Stephanus. See also, Mark xvi. 16. Acts i. 5. Mark x. 13, 16. 1 Chron. xvi. 15—17.

The institution of the Supper. Matt. xxvi. 26—28. And as they were eating, Jesus took bread and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take eat; this is my body. And he took the cup and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; for this is my blood of the New Testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. See also, 1 Cor. xi. 27, 28.

(† For the commencement of this note, see the preceding page.)

make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you ; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace."

And now may the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ ; to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

GENERAL ECCLESIASTICAL RULES.

I. *Permanent Officers.*—The permanent officers are the Pastor, four Deacons, and Prudential Committee.

The Pastor is Moderator and Clerk for recording all matters purely ecclesiastical. In his absence, the Deacons are to preside according to seniority. In the absence of both Pastor and Deacons, a moderator must be chosen.

The Prudential Committee whose duty it is to consult with the Pastor and with the individual members, in all needful cases, for the best interests of the church, is composed of the Deacons and if the church please to add, of one or more brethren.

The annual officers are a Clerk and Treasurer. The Clerk shall keep a record of all the temporal transactions of the church.

The Treasurer shall collect and take the custody of all taxes voted by the church, and pay over the same as directed by the church. He shall make report annually of the monies received and expended. The annual meeting, at which the annual officers shall be appointed shall be held in December.

II. *Admission of Members.*—Candidates for admission by profession, shall be approved by the Pastor and Deacons, and examined in the presence of the church, and if approved by the church, shall stand publicly propounded at least one, and when convenient, two weeks; after which, if no objection be offered to the Pastor, or either of the Deacons, they shall be admitted members of the church, by acknowledging their assent to the Confessions of Faith, and Covenant, in the presence of the church and congregation.

Creator of all things, and the sovereign disposer of all events.

The existence and unity of God.—Deut. vi. 4. Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord. Isa. xlv. 5. I am the Lord, and there is none else; there is no God beside me. Mark xii. 32. There is one God. 1 Cor. viii. 4. There is none other God but one.

The Trinity.—Mat. xxviii. 19. Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. 2 Cor. xiii. 14. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. 1 Pet. i. 2. Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ. 1 John v. 7. There are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost, and these three are one.

God the Creator of all things and the disposer of all events.—Gen. i. 1. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Neh. ix. 6. Thou, even thou, art Lord alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all. Mat. x. 29, 30. Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? And one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.—Eph. i. 11. Who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will. See also Ps. ciii. 19. Job xi. 7—9. Rev. xix. 6. 1 Tim. i. 17. Mal. iii. 6. Ps. cii. 25, 27, Ps. cxxxix. Jer. xxiii. 23, 24. Ps. xc. 2. Eph. iv. 6.

II. You believe that this God, existing in three persons, is a spirit, holy, unchangeable, and perfect in all the attributes of his character.

God is a spirit.—John iv. 24. God is a spirit; and they that worship him, must worship him in spirit and truth. Numb. xxiv. 2. And the spirit of God came upon him.

God is holy.—Isa. vi. 3. Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts, and the whole earth is full of his glory. Exo. xv. 11. Who is like unto thee, O Lord, amongst the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders? Rev. iv. 8. Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

God is unchangeable.—Malachi iii. 6. For I am the Lord, I change not. James i. 17. Every good gift, and every perfect gift, is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

God perfect in all his attributes.—1 Tim. i. 17. Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory forever and ever, Amen. Exo. xxxiv. 6, 7. And the Lord passed by before him and proclaimed, the Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty. Job xi. 7—9. Canst thou by searching find out God? Canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection? It is as high as heaven; what canst thou do? deeper than hell; what canst thou know? The measure thereof, is longer than the earth, and broader than the sea. See also, Ps. xc. 2. Rev. xix. 6. Heb. i. 12. Ps. cii. 25, 27. Ps. cxxxix. 1, 12. Jer. xxiii. 23, 24.

III. You believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the word of God ; — that they were given by inspiration of God, and are profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness.

2 Peter i. 21. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man ; but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. 2 Tim. iii. 16. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. 2 Peter i. 19. We have a more sure word of prophecy ; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed. John xvii. 17. Thy word is truth. Mat. xxii. 29. Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures. Gal. i. 11, 12. But I certify you, brethren, that the Gospel which was preached of me, is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ. See also, 1 Cor. ii. 13. Heb. i. 1. Ps. cxix. Ps. xix. 7, 8. John v. 39. Isa. viii. 20.

IV. You believe in the total corruption of human nature.

Rom. v. 12. Therefore as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned. Eph. ii. 3. And were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. Gen. vi. 5. And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. Job xv. 16. How much more abominable and filthy is man which drinketh iniquity like water. Ps. xiv. 2, 3. The Lord looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand and seek God. They are all gone aside, they are altogether become filthy, there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Rom. viii. 6, 7, 8. For to be carnally minded is death ; because the carnal mind is enmity against God. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. Ps. lviii. 3. The wicked are estranged from the womb ; they go astray, as soon as they are born, speaking lies. Ps. li. 5. Behold I was shapen in iniquity and in sin did my mother conceive me. See also, Gen. viii. 21. Job xxv. 4. Isa. xlviii. 8. Jer. xvii. 9. Mat. xii. 34. Rom. chapters 1, 2, 3. 2 Cor. v. 14. Eph. ii. 1, 3. Eccl. ix. 3.

V. You believe that no man can be saved by any merit or righteousness of his own ; but only through the atonement of Christ.

Eph. i. 7. In whom [i. e. in Christ] we have redemption through his blood ; the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace. Rom. iii. 24. Being justified freely by his grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. John iii. 16. God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life. Eph. ii. 8, 9. For by grace are ye saved, through faith ; and that not of yourselves ; it is the gift of God ; not of works, lest any man should boast. Heb. ix. 26—28. But now, once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many. Isa. liii. 5—12. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he

LIST OF MEMBERS.

**Those marked thus, (*) are deceased. Those marked thus, (f) have received letters of dismission and recommendation to other churches. Those marked thus, (†) excluded. Those who have been received by letter have the place of their former residence annexed to their names. Those marked thus, (||) are non-resident.

**PASTOR,
ORIN FOWLER.**

DEACONS,

RICHARD DUFFEE,
DAVID ANTHONY,

SAMUEL L. WHIPPLE,
LEANDER P. LOVELL.

MEMBERS.

Original Members January †Hannah Allen.
9, 1816. *Abby Dean.

Joseph Durfee.	Ann C. Glazier.
Richard Durfee.	Sarah Luther.
* Benjamin Brayton.	Susannah Borden.
* Elizabeth Durfee.	Ruth Durfee.
† Wealthe Durfee.	Lucretia Warren.

1817. *May.*

Orpah Durfee.
Roby Brown.
Amelia Simmons.
Susannah Hathaway.
Susannah Bennet.
Elizabeth Borden.
David Anthony.
†Sylvester C. Allen.
Amery Glazier.
*Thomas R. Durfee.
1818.
Hannah Westgate.

August.

Dorcas Adams.	Hannah Durfee.
†Sarah Borden.	Harriet Hathaway.
Betsey Cook.	<i>October.</i>

October.

Mary Borden.	*Lucy Richards.
†Eliza Durfee.	Amy Evans.
Abby W. Durfee.	Hannah Hathaway.

1824. *March.*

†Augustus B. Read.

July.

Jonathan Leonard.

Martha Leonard.

1825. *March.*

Bradford Luther.

Daniel Wright.

*Duncan Wright.

†Janette W. Wright.

Janette Wright.

Margaret Wright.

||Margaret Gilmore.

May.

†Malinda Read.

1826. *November.*

Mary Carpenter, *Pomfret,*
Conn.

1827. *January.*

Eliza Ann Glazier.

March.

Ann Tasker.

||Mercy Manchester.

Susan Burns.

Mary Hathaway.

†Mary Allen.

May.

William Shaw.

Samuel Simmons.

Aaron Durfee.

Thomas Borden.

William Nichols.

Joseph Durfee.

†Matthew C. Durfee.

Richard Borden.

*Elisha Shaw.

Pyam Jacob.

Philip R. Bennet.

Nathan Durfee, *Union Ch.*
Providence, R. I.

*Patience Shaw.

Hannah Simmons.

Ruth Durfee.

Delana B. Durfee.

†Fidelia B. Durfee.

*Mary M. Durfee.

Ruth Cook.

†Mary W. Leonard.

Mary Talbot.

Ariadne Borden.

Irene Luther.

*Amanda M. Anthony.

June.

Samuel Chace, *Berkley.*

Oliver Gray.

†Ambrose W. Hathaway.

Leander P. Lovell.

||Samuel Chandler.

||Orin Dean.

James Nichols.

†Susan Jennings.

Ann Fowler.

Clarissa Jacob.

Prudence W. Hathaway.

Nancy Simmons.

Elizabeth T. Simmons.

†Adeline Cushing.

Sarah Gray.

Sylvia B. Durfee.

Patience Cook.

||Rebecca Turner.

||Harriet Lawton.

†Lucy Hathaway.

Lemira Horton.

Eliza Cook.

Hannah Hathaway.

Abby Jane Terry.

August.

Samuel Bennet.

Betsey Bennet.

Cynthia Bennet.

Persis Larkin.

†Rebecca Allen.

1828. *February.*

†Sally Tripp.

May.

Taber Bennet, *Tiverton, R I.*

Thomas Stoddard.

George Clark.

Mary Ann Sanford.

Mary B. Cushing.

August.

Ann Reed, } *Colchester,*

Phebe Reed, } *Conn.*

September.

Betsey C. Read, *Tinmouth,*

October. [*Vt.*

†Mary Leonard, *Norton.*

1829. *January.*

Hiram Bliss,

Clarinda D. Bliss,

Phebe W. Stoddard,

Mahala Turner Manchester,

†Lydia Brownell,

1830. *January.*

Sarah E. Warning, *Portland*

Me.

February.

Ann Beeman, *Portland, Me.*

September.

Harriet Harnden,

†Virene Rice,

Sarah Bennet,

||Sarah Pitts,

||Huldah Tompkins,

1830. *January.*

*Asahel N. Bliss,

Caroline Dean,

March.

Mary Alden,

July.

Sarah Eddy,

†Mary Ann Hall,

November.

||Lurana Cobb,

December.

Sarah Stoddard,

1831. *September.*

Hope Cook,

†Eliza Hall,

Clarissa V. Whipple,

Eleanor Southwick,

Ruth Sanford, *Tiverton, R I.*

Eliza Sanford, *Tiverton, R I.*

Mariamne Grinnell, "

Samuel L. Whipple, *Man-*

tua, Ohio.

Edward S. Keep, *Salem St.*

Boston.

November.

†Easton Peabody,

*William A. Braman,

Amy Childs Crary,

Amoryllis Fowler,

Plainfield, Conn.

Deborah Grinnell,

Little Compton, R I.

||Martha Mason, *Tiverton "*

1832. *January.*

Rebecca Young, *Dartmouth*

Mass.

Peter Fwing,

||William Packard,

†Sarah Martin Carpenter,

*Bathsheba Sanford,

Lydia Bunker Cathcart,

†Cordelia Coleman,

†Harriet Otis,

†Sarah De Wolf,
Ellen Evans Clark,

March.

Gershom Burr,
Mary E. Burr,
†Henry Abbot Newhall,
John Barnes,
||Francis Waldron,
†Horatio Nelson Otis,
†John Warden, Jun.
Williams Abner Burt,
Philip Hathaway Chace,
Hannah Thompson,
Sarah Borden Luther,
Patience Borden Hawes,
Phebe Ann Irish,
Phebe Brightman Borden,
†Arvilla Potter,
Mary Borden Cook,
Harriet Adaline Tew,
Susan Tabor Bennet,
Rebecca Freebody Potter,

May.

Henry Read,
†Samuel Carpenter,
Sophia Ambler,
†Maribah Wright,
†Martha Potter,
Jane Bray Thompson,
Eliza Hathaway Tew,
Priscilla Warden,
Ann Chace,
||Lucas Cook Young,
||Mary A. Young, *Seekonk.*

July.

Eliza Potter,
†Harriet Newell De Wolf,
David Robinson,

September.

Mercy Brownell, *Freetown.*

November.

||Eliza B. Esten, *Pawtucket.*
Ruth Wrightington,
1833. *January.*

Sally Talbot, *Dighton.*

July.

James D. Hathaway,
*Meribah D. Church,
Ann A. Barnard,
†Edward Pratt, *Richmond-*
street, Providence, R I.
||Mary B. Hoyt, *New-Mar-*
ket, N H.

Mary A. Houghton, *Lowell.*

September.

||Roby Lyon, *Douglass.*
Laura Batt, *Rehoboth.*
Mary Ann Gray, *Tiverton,*
R I.

November.

Betsey Stoddard,
Lucretia Durfee Dean,
West Taunton.

†Elizabeth S. Rice,

Brighton.

†Benjamin S. Bourne,
Bristol. R I.

†Hannah Bourne, "
Mary Ann Coggeshall, "
||William Ide Gray,

Seekonk.

Charles C. Dillingham,
Berkley.

Mary Ann Dillingham,
Bridgewater.
Elizabeth Dean, *Freetown.*

1834. *January.*

Patience Willard,

March.

†Moses Pierce,

†Harriet Gardner Pierce,

Almira Borden,

|| Benjamin P. Lockwood,

Mary Mantius, *Fishkill*
*Landing, N Y.**May.*

John N. Read,

Mary Ann Read,

|| Mary Watts,

Samuel Henry Barnard,

|| Mary Brownell,

Sarah Borden,

July.

John Paul,

Mary Paul,

Ruth Story Wardwell,

Elizabeth McLellan,

Jane Ann McLellan,

|| Abby Hathaway Davis,

Mary Bowers Gray,

Mary Ann Paine,

Eliza Dean.

Gilbert Hathaway Durfee.

David Olney.

Elizabeth Tew Olney.

†Theodore F. Clark.

†Mary Esther Clark.

Jonathan Bridges.

Harriet Bridges.

Daniel Leonard.

Anna R. Leonard.

|| Cyrus French.

Mary Mitchell.

|| Rinhard Wunch.

Jane Hudson Glazier.

Sarah Ann Bowen.

†Sarah Brown Potter.

*Margaret Hervey.

Alice King Dean.

|| William Dean Bullock.

|| Henry Esten.

†George Drew.

Sarah Cory, *Beneficent Ch.*
*Providence, R. I.*Agnes Wardrop, *Neilston,*
*Scotland.**September.*

Abraham Boomer Luther.

†Charles Lawton.

†Melancy Lawton.

Phebe Durfee.

Harriet Gray.

November.

|| Adaline W. Cushing,

*Pawtucket, R. I.*1835. *January.*

†Robert Kinlock.

†Sarah Pratt, *Wrentham.*Matilda Brown, *Swansey.**March.*

†Elizabeth Houghton.

Henry A. Newhall, *Salem-*
*street, Boston.*John Warden, *Lowell.**July.*Betsy Bessy, *Fairhaven.**September.*Clarissa Anderson, *N York.**November.*

†Clarissa Elvira Hill.

1836.

†Baylies P. Talbot.

May.

Tillinghast Briggs.

Harriet Borden Simmons.	Samuel Anger Chace.
Ann Durfee.	Anna Cook Durfee.
Aaron Jefferson Dean.	Amelia Simmons Durfee.
Cicily Barnes.	Charlotte Malona Harvey.
Moses Dean.	Mary Gray Roy.
Ann Corner.	Louisa Pierce.
†Walter Horsie.	Ruth O. Cory.
†Cornelia A. Talbot.	John Slade Cotton.
Minerva Chace.	Joseph Evans Reed.
Joseph G. Hathaway.	Lydia Congal Shaw.
Mianda Hathaway.	Albert Cobb.
Lydia Raymond Melcher.	Jesse Eddy.
Sarah S. Dillingham.	Israel Brayton.
Ruth Boomer.	William Brown.
	Nathan Simmons Brown.
	Sarah Brown.

July.

Catharine G. Van Santvoort.	Abby Bennett.
Eliza Ann Young.	Louisa Wilber.
Mary Eliza Leonard.	Polly Anthony.
Henry Hudson Fish.	Sarah Durfee.
Joseph Dunning.	Harriet J. Lindsey.
Charles Trafton.	Mary L. A. Richardson.
William Astle.	Elizabeth Boals.
Richard Hoghton.	Albert Bennett.
Alfred W. Pearce.	Elisha Carpenter.
Lydia B. Wrightington.	Harvey Hamden.
Amy W. Braman.	James Ford.
Samuel Gray.	David Brownell.
George Edward Barnard.	Melvin Borden.
William Durfee	Harriet Atwood Durfee.
Samuel Thompson.	Sirene Borden.
John Dyke.	Catharine Lawton Pierce.
Mary Gladding Cook.	Edward S. Chase.
Harriet Seabury.	Joseph B. Luther.
Sarah Freeman Bennett.	John Southwick.
Hannah Maria Barnard.	James Corner,
Sarah Perkins.	William Sullivan Reed,
Rachel Perkins.	John Luther,
Elizabeth Caroline Bennett.	Benjamin Wardwell,

Meribah Borden,	Catharine B. B. Brayton,
Maria Elizabeth Gardner,	Fanny Favilla Taylor,
†John Hoghton,	Maria Scholes,
†Nancy Hoghton,	<i>November.</i>
William Coggeshall,	Parnell Briggs,
Hannah Elizabeth Cogges-	Mercy A. Whitely,
[hall,	Frederick Leach,
Patience Buffington,	Benjamin Earl,
Martha Ann Gibbs,	Mary Bacon Learned,
Sarah H. Brightman,	1837. <i>January.</i>
Hannah Brightman,	Fanny D. Kingman,
*Ralph Devereaux Thomp-	<i>N Middleborough.</i>
[son,	<i>March.</i>
Francis Baylies Reed,	Harrison Bowers, } <i>Wa-</i>
Joseph Parke, } <i>Ireland.</i>	Mrs. Bowers, } <i>terford.</i>
Mary M. Parke, }	<i>May.</i>
Martha Ann Page, <i>South-</i>	Sarah S. Snell,
<i>ington Conn.</i>	Sarah F. Hoghton,
Eliab Williams, <i>Raynham.</i>	<i>July.</i>
Sarah Ann Williams, <i>Som-</i>	John Goddard, <i>Richmond</i>
<i>erset.</i>	<i>street, Providence.</i>
Ann Duthe, <i>Scotland.</i>	<i>September.</i>
<i>September.</i>	Mehitable P. Lindsey, <i>Plain-</i>
Frederick Augustus Chace,	<i>field, Conn.</i>
Content Chace,	<i>November.</i>
Diana Parke,	Mary Leonard, <i>Taunton.</i>
Lydia Ann Brown,	Mary W. Earl, <i>Taunton.</i>
Joseph Durfee Brown,	

Whole number 392. Present number 320. Present number of resident members 285. Present number of males 106. Present number of females 214. Present number of resident males 91. Present do. females 194. Non-resident 35. Dismissed and recommended 53. Deceased 16. Excluded 3.

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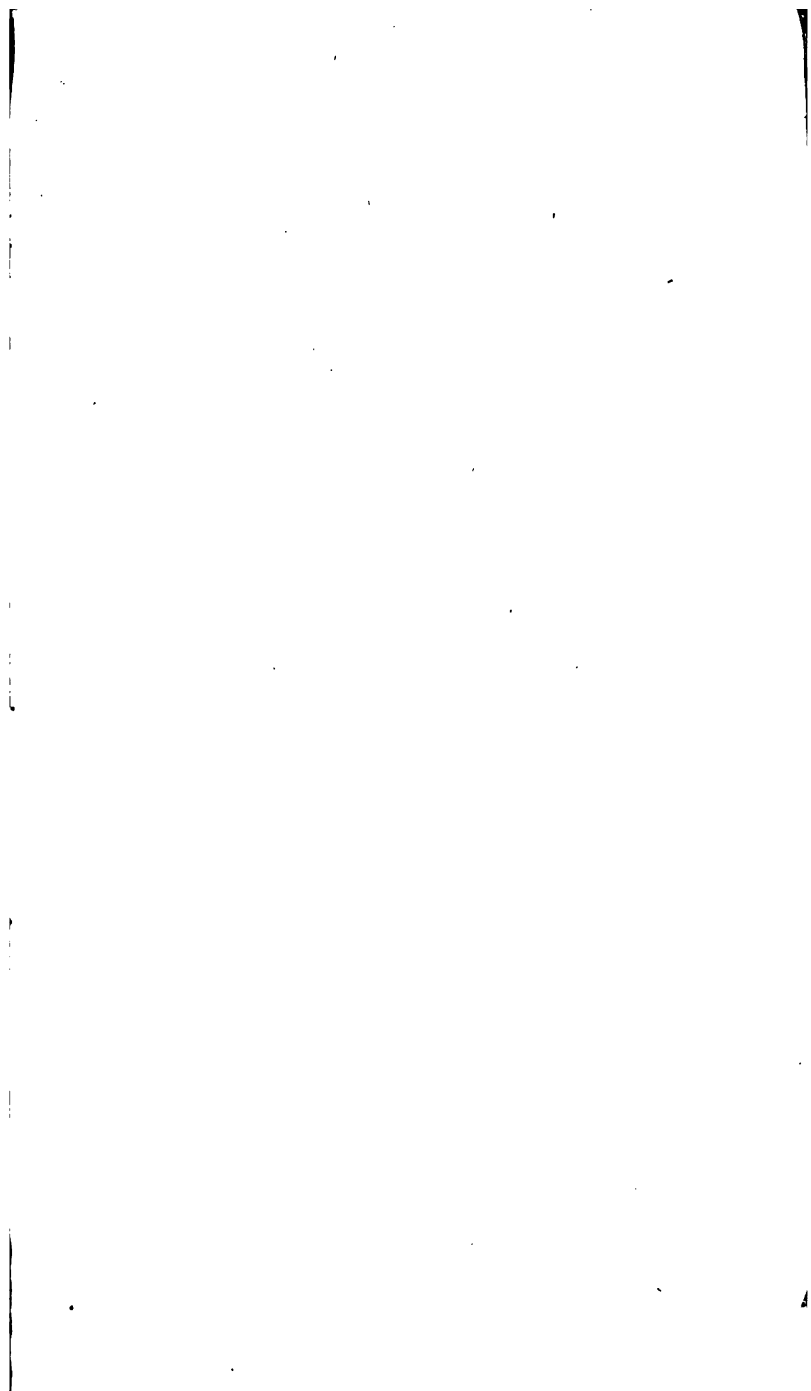
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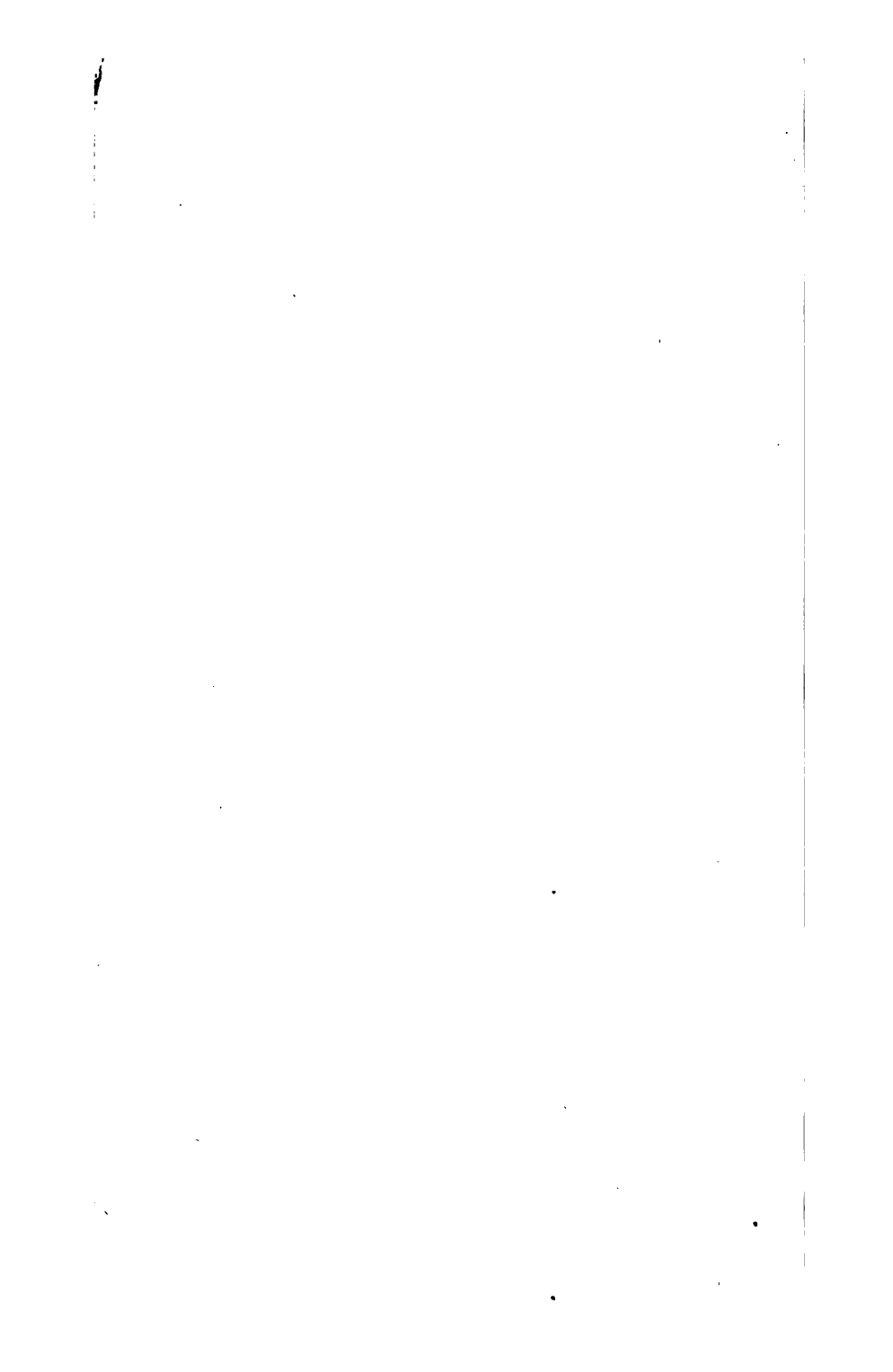
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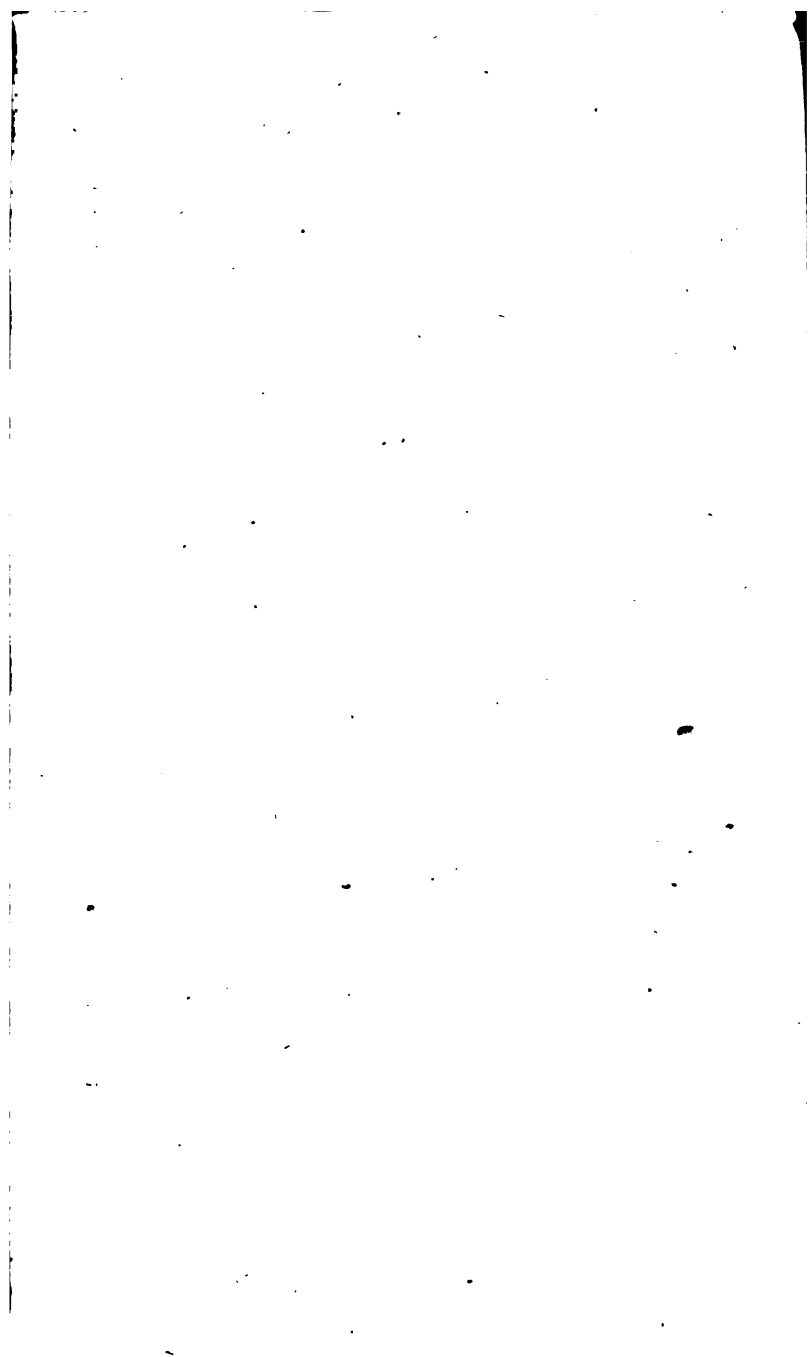
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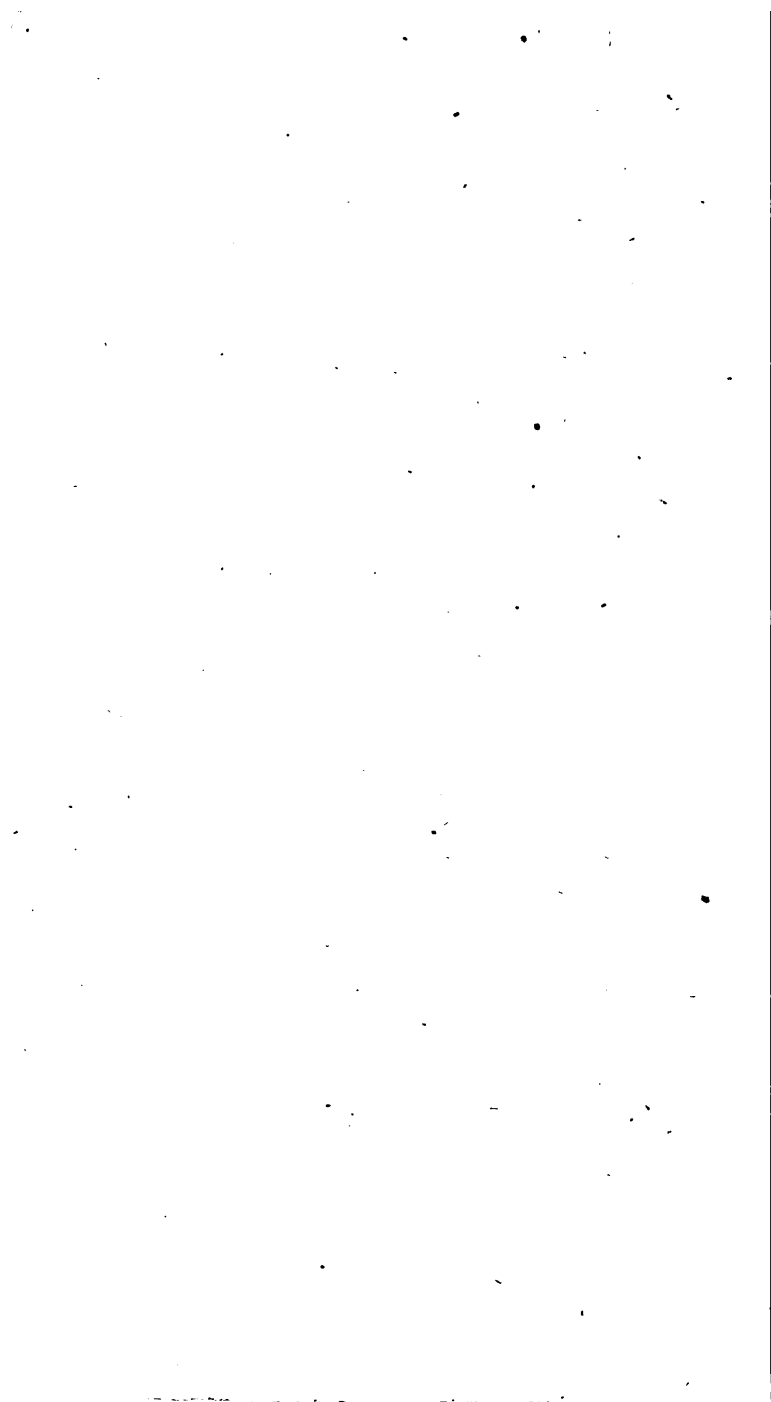
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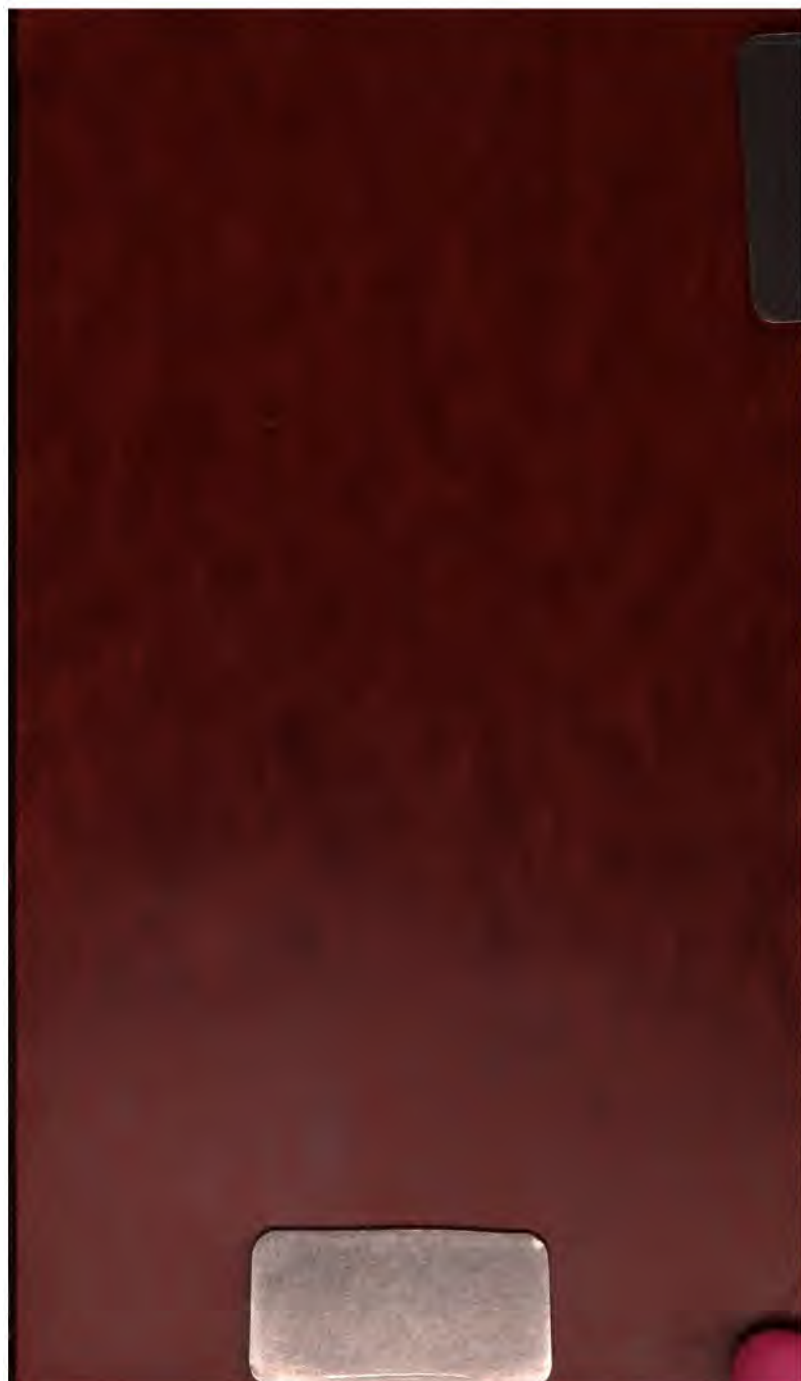












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The confession of faith and covenant

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